Segmentation takes place here in the manner stated by Claparède and Mecznikoff: the smaller spherules of segmentation grow round the larger ones; and after complete segmentation an embryo is developed *within the egg-membrane*, bearing a ciliary girdle, and in its anterior part two eye-spots. The posterior end shows a delicate coat of cilia. It now rotates in its capsule like the embryo of a mollusk, until its egg-membrane is absorbed and it can move more freely in the gelatinous envelope. The animal is still quite opaque, when we observe on each side of it two lanceolate setæ, and a pad which projects like a handle at the sides and surrounds the animal; this is the rudiment of the neck-frill. At the formation of the third pair a subulate seta associates itself with the other setæ, the neck-pad becomes elongated with the animal, and a more distinct separation between the fore and hind body appears. At the extremity of the latter we still observe a band of cilia striking downwards; and at the cephalic extremity, on which tentacles are now sprouting, we see a small tuft of cilia, which soon falls off. In other respects I may refer for the further development to Agassiz's description of the process in *S. spirillum*, as any thing I could say would be only an unnecessary repetition of what he has said.—*Zeitschr. für wiss. Zool.* Bd. xxi. p. 394.

### *On presumed American Specimens of* Pelomedusa.
By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

The British Museum lately received, along with a collection of fish in spirits, from Dr. Wucherer, from Bahia, a very large specimen of *Pelomedusa subrufa*, which is a common South-, East-, and West-African species. Is this another instance of an African tortoise having colonized, like *Kinixys* in South America? It is considerably larger than any other specimen we have received, but I cannot see that it differs in any other respect.

Cornalia described a species of *Pelomedusa*, which is entirely an African genus, under the name of *Pentonyx americana*; and his description will fit young specimens of this species. He says that it comes from New York. Can that have been from an introduced specimen of *P. subrufa* brought by the negroes from Africa, as *Kinixys* is also supposed to have been?

### *Note on* Trimerella acuminata. By E. Billings.

The genus *Trimerella* was founded by me on two species (*T. grandis* and *T. acuminata*); but of the latter I had only the rostral half of the ventral valve of a small specimen. I therefore named it provisionally, and stated that it differed "from *T. grandis* in having the spiral extremity much more pointed, and the longitudinal septa running all the way to the beak." (The septa here alluded to are the walls between the tubes mentioned below.) Within the last few days, Mr. T. C. Weston, of our Survey, discovered several new speci-

mens, among which are two exhibiting the casts of both valves in connexion. It then immediately became evident that several separate dorsal valves in our collection belonged to the same species. I have therefore now abundant material to illustrate the species, which I shall do soon, but in the mean time propose to notice its leading characters briefly.

The ventral valve, in young specimens, is somewhat straight along the median line, but becomes more and more arched as the size increases. It is ovate, rounded in front, widest a little in advance of the mid-length, thence tapering with nearly straight sides to the beak, which is narrowly rounded, almost acute. In the substance of the shell there are two large tubes, which extend from about the mid-length to the beak. These are joined in the beak by two others, one on each side. All of these tubes are open anteriorly, but closed at their terminations in the beak. The area is large, concave, and transversely striated. The dorsal valve is much shorter than the ventral, more convex, and has its beak very strongly incurved; it has two tubes, which extend nearly to the apex of the beak. The shell is marked with coarse concentric accretion-ridges of growth. Length of the largest specimen $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, width 3 inches.

The above is sufficient to show that this species is quite distinct from *T. grandis*. If a section were to be made across the beak of a perfect shell of *T. acuminata*, it would show four perforations arranged in a curve, exactly as in the similar section of the Swedish species figured by Dr. Lindström. But if the beak of *T. grandis* were to be cut across, it would show only two orifices, and they would be the homologues of the two lateral perforations in the section of *T. acuminata*, because in *T. grandis* the two central tubes do not extend into the beak, but terminate before they reach it.—*Silliman's American Journal*, June 1871.

*On the Skull of the Madoqua* (Neotragus Saltianus) *from Abyssinia.* By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

The British Museum has just received the skull of a female *Neotragus Saltianus* from Abyssinia. It is peculiar for being short and broad, with orbits very prominent and the nose much compressed; suborbital fissure small, triangular; concavity in front of the orbit very large, deep behind; the nose-hole very large, more than half the length of the nose; the intermaxillary bones very long and slender, slightly dilated and expanded outward in front, much broader and truncated behind; the nasal bones very short, broad, as broad as long, deeply notched on each side of the margin. Lower jaw very slender, elongate, straight, with a well-produced hinder angle. The chin compressed, keeled.

In the size of the nose-hole it is most allied to the genus *Procapra*, and in some respects to *Saiga*.